



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|) | Group Art Unit: 2822 |
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|) | Examiner: M. Guerrero |
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.99, Applicant submits herewith a Form PTO-1449 listing references known to Applicant and requests that these references be made of record in the above identified application. Copies of the references listed are submitted herewith in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a).

Copies of U.S. patents and U.S. publications are not enclosed in accordance with the Notice published in the Official Gazette on August 5, 2003 entitled *Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003*, which waives the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. publication.

U.S. Patent No. 4,746,628 was cited in an Office Action dated May 21, 2004 in parent U.S. Application Serial No. 09/118,010.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits, therefore, no fee is required.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be

required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | | | Complete if Known | | |
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| INFO | RMATION I | NISCI | | Application Number | 10/815,654 | |
| | | | | Filing Date | April 2, 2004 | |
| STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) | | | | First Named Inventor | Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al. | |
| | | | | Group Art Unit | 2822 | |
| | | | | Examiner Name | M. Guerrero | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | ı | Attorney Docket Number | 0756-7279 | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Cite No.1 | U.S. Patent Docume | nt | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited | Date of Publication of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | |
| | | | Code ² | Document | MM-DD-YYYY | | |
| | | 4,746,628 | | Takafuji et al. | 05/24/1988 | | |
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| Examiner Initials | Cite No.1 | Foreign Patent Document | | | Name of Patentee or | Date of Publication of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant | |
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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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